

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 00520 300639Z

21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2716

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND PRIORITY

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E O 11652 N A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: CORAL SEA

REF: STATE 099708

1. TWO TOPICS HAVE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ASPECTS HERE IN THE MELBOURNE CONSULAR DISTRICT (VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA) BECAUSE THEY RELATED DIRECTLY TO THE HOT POLITICAL ISSUE OF FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONS. VICTORIAN SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE CENTRALIST POLICIES OF LABOR-RUN FEDERAL GOVT ARE BITTERLY RESENTED BY LIBERAL PARTY STATE GOVT.

2. EDUCATION: FOR PAST FOUR YEARS AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHERS AT PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL HAVE BEEN RECRUITED IN LARGE NUMBERS (1300-1400 NOW HERE VICTORIA). THIS PROGRAM HAS OPERATED WITH EMINENT SUCCESS. HOWEVER, ON APRIL 30 FEDERAL MINISTER OF LABOR CLYDE CAMERON SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NO LONGER ISSUE VISAS FOR "FOREIGN" TEACHERS. CAMERON'S STATED REASON IS "NATIONWIDE SURPLUS" OF AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS IN

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PAGE 02 MELBOU 00520 300639Z

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. CAMERON STATEMENT HAS

BEEN STRONGLY OPPOSED BY STATES, WHO CALIM THAT SO-CALLED
"SURPLUS" DOES NOT EXIST IN THEIR AREA. FURTHER DETAILS
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SECRETARY ON ARRIVAL MELBOURNE.

3. HEALTH: SINCE ADVENT OF FEDERAL LABOR GOVT IN
1972, FEDERAL MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY WM. HAYDEN HAS
ATTEMPTED INTRODUCE NATIONWIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME
POPULARLY CALLED "MEDIBANK," WHICH CONTAINS ELEMENTS OF
AMERICAN MEDICARE AND OTHER NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEMES.
MEDIBANK PLAN NOW SCHEDULED TO BE IMPLEMENTED JULY 1, 1975;
BUT HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED BY SEVERAL STATES WHO FAVOR
PRIVATE SCHEMES WHICH HAVE OPERATED SUCCESSFULLY FOR 25
YEARS. MOST VORACIOUS OF CRITICS HAS BEEN VICTORIAN STATE
MINISTER FOR HEALTH SCANLAN WHO HAS HAD WIDESPREAD PUBLIC
SUPPORT FOR HIS STAND. CONTROVERSY CURRENTLY VERY HOT. DETAILS
OF THIS QUESTION WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO SECRETARY ON ARRIVAL
MELBOURNE.
BRAND

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